

REMARKS

Claims 115-153, 158-166, and 168-228 are pending in the application. Claims 115-125 are amended. New claim 229 is added by this Supplemental Amendment. No new matter is added and support of the amendments and new claim may be found in the Specification as follows:

Stringent hybridization conditions of washing in 5x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55 °C as specified in new claim 229 is described in Section IV.A.5 of the Specification (page 95). Hybridization solution containing 50% (w/v) formamide as specified in new claim 229 is described in Section IV.C.1 of the Specification (page 171).

Applications of the claimed methods in preparation of human blood-related products and polyclonal antibodies, and in passive immunotherapy are disclosed on page 8, page 41, in sections II.B, G, and I and throughout the Specification.. No new matter is added and entry of the amendments and new claim 229 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent on the pending claims, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned. If the Examiner determines that the claims are not allowable, Applicants request an opportunity to interview the Examiner.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

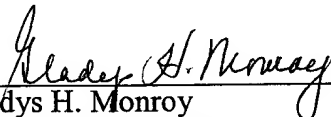
In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to

charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 223002006313.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

115. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that contain a detectable polynucleotide comprising a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides fully complementary to either strand of Figure 3.

116. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that contain a detectable polynucleotide comprising a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides fully complementary to either strand of Figure 62A.

117. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that contain a detectable polynucleotide comprising a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides fully complementary to either strand of Figure 89.

118. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide that comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from the genome of a hepatitis C virus genome or the complement thereof, or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

119. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the HCV cDNA inserts in a lambda

gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394 or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

120. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides found in either strand of Figure 89.

121. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides found in either strand of Figure 14.

122. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) cDNA inserts in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394.

123. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.

124. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 14.

125. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with a hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in a lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

Claim 229 is newly added.